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Subject: My Request to Department of Education to Include Hindu Universal Acceptance in latest 6th Grade History and Social Sciences Framework

Hello and Namaste. I am Aarohi, an 8th grader coming from San Diego, California. I wanted to make my request in person to you. So my dad drove me from San Diego to Sacramento on November 19th. Please consider my request for updating the framework.

I was disappointed by emphasis on non- core aspects of Hinduism in 6th grade text while completely ignoring the basic values. I understand that the latest 6th grade History and Social Sciences Framework itself is missing many Hindu values that are so relevant today. I want to talk about one of such ignored values - Universal Acceptance.

Acceptance to me means respecting someone for being different than myself. Historically, Hindus have always accepted and welcomed the people from all around the world and made them a part of our social fabric while helping them maintain their own religious and cultural identity.

For example, Jews came to India around 2000 years ago as exiles. They were not only allowed to stay as Jews in India, but also helped to thrive by the local Hindu community . Even today, this community is living happily in India free of anti-semitism.

Zoroastrianism is the ancient religion of Persia (modern-day Iran). Zoroastrianism shares more than thousand years of history with the culture and people of India. They came to India seeking refuge. Not only has their population grown in India but they are still a thriving and successful community.

I'd also like to highlight a verse from an ancient Hindu text, the Upanishad, which is "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha" - which means " Let everyone be happy". I truly believe that Hindus have lived by this inclusive philosophy.

The Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content mention one of their purposes is to enable all students to become aware and accepting of religious diversity while being allowed to remain secure in any religious beliefs they may already have. The core Hindu aspect of Universal Acceptance is so relevant in the modern world! How can we miss this in the Framework and Textbooks?

This should be corrected in the California text to present fair views about my religion. Please add that "Hinduism is a major religion with unique aspect of universal acceptance" on line number 887 of your latest 6th grade History Social Science Framework, after "...form".

Thank you.

Aarohi Ashutosh Zade